

Dr. R. B. Seligman

J. S. Osmalov

Reynolds' Vantage Filter

May 19, 1970

Wm. C. Collins
Pls review this
question and be
prepared to
make a statement
about whether or
not Reynolds will
have a patented
product

I have reviewed the claims from the Portuguese patent application #51,522 by Cigaret Components Limited and find that they completely describe the filter article shown to us by the people at Tennessee Eastman. This type of filter is very similar in concept to that conceived by Al Super in 1960. Based on Super's development, a patent application was filed in the United States but all claims were rejected because the idea had already been disclosed in a French Patent #1,118,860.

While the filtration concept of the Filtrona, Vantage filter, is very similar to that described in Thomson's Long Par patent and the Brown & Williamson Patent #3,370,594, it most closely resembles the filter described in Super's application. Filtrona may be able to obtain some specific filter design claims and claims on method manufacture; I seriously doubt, however, that the filter concept, use of a large hollow cylindrical area, will be considered new and patentable in the United States. Les Inskeep concurs in this opinion.

If you would like any additional information or further investigation, please let me know.

/wt

cc: Dr. H. Wakeham
Mr. R. N. Thomson

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